

Appln No. 10/786,918
Am dt date July 10, 2006
Reply to Office action of May 11, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action mailed on May 11, 2006. Claim 1 and 8 have been amended. Claims 13-19 have been added and are directed to subject matter disclosed in the application as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Claims 4, 11, and 12 have been canceled. Claims 1-2, 5-10, and 13-19 are now pending in the application.

Applicant thanks Examiner for the indication that previously presented claims 4 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to include all of the limitations of previously presented claim 4. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of it's previously presented base claim. Accordingly, claim 8 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 8 has also been amended to replace the word "distal" with "sagittal" in the last clause to correct an inadvertent error. That this language should be sagittal, rather then distal, should be understood from the context of the claim and the specification. Support is found, for example, on page 3, lines 19-22 of the specification.

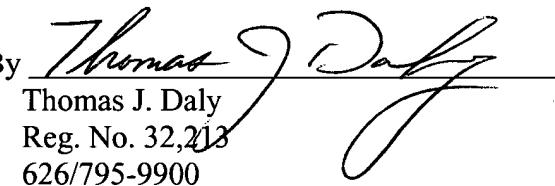
Claims 2, 5-7, and 9-10, and 13-19 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and, accordingly, a timely indication thereof is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns about the allowability of this application, the Examiner is kindly requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss them.

Respectfully submitted,
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